Statement by Ambassador Mr. Ri Tong Il,
Deputy Permanent Representative of DPR Korea
to the United Nations
Subject: Nuclear Weapons, 1st Committee, 66th Session of UNGA

Mr. Chair
As far as the world peace and security is concerned, the greatest challenge is coming from nuclear weapons.

More than half a century has passed since the appearance of the first nuclear weapon and twenty years have elapsed since the end of the Cold War. Nevertheless, there’s a growing tendency of relying on nuclear weapons, the modernization of nuclear weapons being accelerated on the part of nuclear powers.

In addition, a country with the largest stockpiles of nuclear weapons, having designated specific countries as the targets of preemptive nuclear strikes, has drawn up an operational plan for nuclear attacks and it is conducting nuclear war exercises under that plan in an undisguised manner.

Mr. Chair
Our delegation would like to draw your attention to the following issues.

First, nuclear disarmament should be oriented towards total ban on the use of nuclear weapons and their eventual elimination.

The existence of nuclear weapons as well as their use or the threat of use constitute a constant threat to the humankind. Furthermore, as long as nuclear weapons are existing outside of any legal framework of treaty endangering the survival of the humankind, there is no guarantee for world peace and security.
The DPRK is steadfast on the comprehensive and total abolition of nuclear weapons and to this end, insists that a convention on the prohibition of nuclear weapons with timeframe be adopted. In addition, the nuclear disarmament should be multilateral in nature, verifiable and irreversible.

In this regard, we support the proposal for establishment of a special committee and an early start of negotiation on nuclear disarmament.

Second, nuclear powers should refrain from nuclear threats on the non-nuclear-weapon states and provide them with a legal binding NSA.

The non-nuclear-weapon states are demanding a mandatory and binding NSA from nuclear powers on non-use of nuclear weapons under all circumstances.

The international relations in which a certain country is free to pose nuclear threats while others are exposed to the threats should no longer be tolerable.

Nuclear powers should remove “nuclear umbrella” over their allied countries and withdraw all nuclear weapons deployed outside their own territories. They should also abandon a nuclear doctrine based on preemptive use of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon states and pledge to provide firm NSA and move as soon as possible towards the negotiation of an international treaty.

Expecting that the present meeting will play due role in achieving substantial result for achieving disarmament, we assure you of our active cooperation with this committee and the Geneva Conference on Disarmament.

Thank you.